

among themselves and with the government. I certainly support that goal. However, I cannot support this bill in its current form because I believe it does not sufficiently protect the privacy of Americans. Specifically, the bill does not include sufficient protections against the disclosure of sensitive personal information.

Under the bill, companies are not required to extract personal information from the data they collect and share. Sharing un-scrubbed personal information with other companies or with government agencies can potentially put the civil liberties of Americans at risk if the data is misused or handled improperly. The bill also grants companies excessively broad immunities from legal responsibility for the disclosure or misuse of this data.

Many of the amendments accepted on the floor this week provide increased protections for information once it is received by the government, but that is no substitute for protecting it when it is initially collected by companies or when they share the data with each other. The White House has threatened to veto this bill if these issues are not adequately addressed.

I opposed this bill last year for similar reasons. I welcome the changes made to the bill this year to address some of those concerns. For example, no longer can receiving government agencies use information for national security purposes. Additionally, increased protections for personal data have been added for the information when it is placed in government hands. These changes improve the bill, but they do not go far enough to prevent the unwarranted and unnecessary disclosure of private information.

I believe that the cyber threats we face in this country are real, present and destructive. However, I believe that we can address these cyber threats without opening the door to unnecessary disclosure of private information. The companies who collect sensitive data about Americans should be required to safeguard that data to the fullest extent of their ability. The shortcomings of this bill can be easily addressed and I hope the Senate will make these necessary changes. I look forward to supporting a future bill that achieves that goal.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1549, HELPING SICK
AMERICANS NOW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule on H.R. 1549, the so-called "Helping Sick Americans Act."

This ill-conceived and misguided legislation takes funds from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to increase financing of the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Program, PCIP. This sounds laudable but the facts are that this bill hurts an important program that our nation needs. The rule for the bill does not address the problems with this legislation.

Cutting funding from public health funds is a risky move. We know from countless studies

that money invested in public health is a solid investment. It improves the lives of thousands of Americans, especially our most vulnerable members: the elderly, the young, the sick, the disabled and the poor.

In March 2010, Congress passed and President Obama signed the historic health reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In addition to extending life-saving health insurance coverage to 31 million by 2019, the law includes a suite of provisions that have the potential to substantially reform our nation's health care system.

One of these provisions is the establishment of the Prevention and Public Health Fund. This is the nation's first dedicated mandatory federal funding stream for public health and prevention activities.

The Prevention Fund was created to increase the nation's investment in prevention in order to improve health outcomes and decrease health care costs.

In the first two years of its existence, 2010 and 2011, the Fund provided \$1.25 billion for critical programs that prevent tobacco use, decrease HIV rates, increase physical activity and healthy eating, increase immunization rates, and many other activities.

States and communities across the nation are already implementing and benefiting from these programs.

Public health is an essential component of the U.S. health system: its infrastructure and prevention-based programs wrap around clinical health systems to improve population health and reduce health care costs.

Local health departments work with a wide range of community partners to create conditions and policies that help people make healthy choices, such as avoiding tobacco use, becoming more physically active, and eating healthier foods. All these proactive measures contribute to the prevention of chronic diseases and associated risk factors like obesity and smoking.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this rule.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of the innocents that perished in 1915 during the Armenian Genocide.

With a systematic barbarism visited upon them, countless Armenians made their way to Syria seeking refuge from persecution. Today, the world is aghast at the horrific violence engulfing Syria and the Armenian people are once again threatened with upheaval and displacement.

Each year, the United States Congress has the opportunity to stand with justice and recognize the Armenian Genocide. Such action would fortify America's moral standing in the family of nations and send a strong message to our NATO ally Turkey that it must examine the dark chapters of its past and the discriminatory impulses of its present.

Turkey has repeatedly thwarted efforts by Congress and successive administrations to recognize the Armenian Genocide by threatening all manner of retaliation should recognition be accorded. I submit that we do no favors to Turkey by acquiescing in its cynical campaign. Turkey's path to the European Union, its abysmal relations with its ethnic and religious minorities, particularly its violent conflict with the Kurdish people, would all improve if the Armenian Genocide was addressed openly and honestly.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015, it is time for the United States to formally recognize this tragic chapter in world history and to bring some measure of peace and healing to those of Armenian descent.

CELEBRATING "LITTLE WALTER"
AND THE INAUGURAL LITTLE
WALTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebrating "Little Walter" and the inaugural Little Walter Music Festival which will strike a chord in Alexandria, LA, on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Additionally, I would like to call attention to this much-anticipated festival for enhancing economic development and quality of life by unifying and celebrating Louisiana's interests.

The festival, honoring Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, Blues sideman and bandleader Little Walter, will take place on the Red River. Headlining the event is the "Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, LMHOF, Little Walter Legends." Multiple Louisiana Blues harp artists, LMHOF member Henry Gray, who played with Little Walter in Chicago, and a cast of Louisiana Blues All Stars will help usher "Little Walter" into The Louisiana Music Hall of Fame with a presentation from LMHOF President Mike Shepherd. Closing the event is a jam session featuring Lady Liz Neville, former lead vocalist in the Hotel Bentley's Mirror Room, along with the LMHOF "Legends" band on Little Walter's classic hits, "Juke" and "My Babe."

Little Walter, born Marion Walter Jacobs near what is now Spring Bayou Road in the small town of Marksville, LA, revolutionized the sound of the Blues harmonica through amplification just by clamping a microphone to the harmonica as he played. He spent several years in Alexandria before making his way to Chicago to eventually become a member of Muddy Waters band, where he began recording his unique style of Blues. According to his 2008 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction, Little Walter "could make a harmonica moan and roar like a full horn section or produce an unearthly, haunting wail."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Little Walter Music Festival the best of luck, and for its part in retaining the charm and spirit of our region. Lastly, I rise in celebration of Little Walter and his accomplishments making the Blues sound what it is today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
WE THE PEOPLE TEAM

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commend the We the People program for its continuing commitment to promoting civic knowledge and responsibility among students in our elementary schools and high schools. As a source of special pride, I would like to bring the House's attention to the representatives of the State of Alabama in this year's 26th annual national competition, the Vestavia Hills High School academic team from the Sixth District.

We the People helps to shape our next generation of leaders by instilling the principles of good citizenship and active participation in the democratic process. More than one million students from every state take part in this program each year. Students learn to be enlightened citizens by studying the enduring ideas of America's founders and the principles of constitutional government.

After competing locally in a hearing-styled, question and answer competition based on the U.S. Constitution, the top performing teams are invited to Washington to participate in the national finals on Capitol Hill. It is here that they gain firsthand knowledge of Article I, Section 1 of our Constitution—the legislative branch—by competing in a format that simulates the congressional hearing process. As Chairman Emeritus, I am pleased to announce that the Financial Services Committee hearing room will be used in this year's competition.

It takes hard work and commitment to qualify for the We the People national finals. At this time, I would like to extend recognition to the students from Vestavia Hills High School who are representing the State of Alabama. With teachers Mrs. Amy Maddox and Mrs. Jane Schaefer, I congratulate: Christian Sitarz, Carrie Clower, Reagan Cline, Patrick Sipe, Rachel Caskey, Aashka Patel, Anna Dennis, Enrico Camata, Daniel Moran, Amy Li, Sisi Zheng, Peter Adamo, Farhan Khan, Luis Jimenez, Hopson Nance, Hannah Skjellum, Botong Ma, Joseph Stahl, Molly Rhodes, Brian Stahl, Shannon Bewley, Marisa Pierluisi, and Kaustubh Udiipi.

The knowledge and commitment demonstrated by all of the students who take part in We the People should give us all great confidence in the future of our precious American democracy.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to honor the people of the Borough of Alburtis, both past and present as they prepare to celebrate the Borough's Centennial.

Mr. Speaker, the Borough of Alburtis is located in Lehigh County. It was formally incorporated on May 9, 1913 out of the neighboring town of Alburtis and the village of Lockridge.

While it was incorporated in 1913, the Borough's history dates back into the 1850's. As with so many communities across the United States, development was sparked by the arrival of the railroads. These included the Philadelphia and Reading, the Catasauqua and Fogelsville and the East Pennsylvania railroads. In fact the Borough takes its name from Edward K. Alburts, a civil engineer and Board Director of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

The railroads were drawn by the presence of iron ore in the area. The village of Lockridge grew as a result of the presence of the Lockridge Iron Company operating an iron furnace, Lockridge Furnace, in the area. Housing and a church sprang up around the furnace.

In a testament to the spirit, skill and entrepreneurial spirit of the people who lived in the area, other industries soon developed including a silk mill, shirt factories, and a shoe factory in the late 1800s.

Alburts had a population of 700 people in 1914; on the advent of its Centennial, 2,300 people now call the one square mile Alburts Borough their home.

Eventually, in 1921, Lockridge Furnace ceased operation. Lehigh County bought the property in 1970 and now the former industrial site serves the community as the picturesque Lockridge Park and Museum which opened its doors in 1976, the year of America's Bicentennial.

The Furnace serves the people of Alburts as a wonderful recreational site and a great draw for those interested in the history of Lehigh County. Indeed, the residents' commitment to their heritage is shown by their outstanding historical preservation efforts on display in Alburts' downtown.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to represent the people of Alburts in the Congress of the United States at the time of their Centennial celebration and, with the blessings of Divine Providence; it is my great hope that one hundred years from now another Representative of the United States Congress stands in this Chamber to offer their words of praise in support of the intrepid people of Alburts on the occasion of its Bicentennial.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thursday, May 2, 2013 as the National Day of Reason.

The National Day of Reason celebrates the application of reason and the positive impact it has had on humanity. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm the Constitutional separation of religion and government.

I have the privilege of representing Silicon Valley, where every day scientists and engineers employ the scientific method and apply reason to develop innovative technologies that help advance humanity. The application of reason, more than any other means, has proven to offer hope for human survival upon Earth, improving conditions within the universe, and cultivating intelligent, moral and

ethical interactions among people and their environments.

Our Founding Fathers based the Constitution of the United States, the basic document governing the affairs of people within the United States, upon philosophical principles that have their origins in the historical Age of Reason. It is important that on the National Day of Reason, we take time to remember and celebrate this history, including the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion and freedom from the imposition of religion by the state. Our nation's founders knew that the best way to protect religious freedom was to keep the government separate from religion.

The National Day of Reason is also a time to continue the effort our Founding Fathers began to form a more perfect union. Every year, events such as food drives and blood drives are held on this day in which Americans help their fellow citizens and our nation as a whole. These community service events are just some of the many ways Americans will be working to help those in need on the Day of Reason and throughout the year.

I encourage all citizens, residents and visitors to join in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind.

THE 98TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the ninety-eighth anniversary of the onset of the Armenian Genocide, one of the ugliest chapters in the bloodiest century in recorded human history. Over the course of the Genocide, 1.5 million innocent Armenians were slaughtered; those Ottoman Armenians that survived were the tiny and miraculous remnant of a forced march conducted by the Ottomans under the most savage of conditions.

Those murders were not only a tragedy for the Armenian people, who bear its scars to this day. The barbarity inflicted on the Armenians also opened the floodgates on a century of genocide and ethnic-cleansing. We've all seen Hitler's sneering statement "Who after all speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" That statement makes clear the link between indifference to the Armenians and the murder of six million Jews. And it expresses the mindset of so many thuggish leaders after Hitler, leaders convinced that their nationalist aims could easily be achieved through a policy of murder that carried no punishment. The victims of this mindset have spanned the globe, as we know too well.

"Who after all speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Mr. Speaker, I want to affirm today that we do remember, and we remember with reverence. We recall with sorrow the massive loss of life as the result of a deliberate policy of murder. We also know that we owe it to humanity and history to remember, if only to help erect a deterrent against future such tragedies. And let me add that Turkey owes it to the Armenians to acknowledge and come to terms with what its forbears perpetrated—and, at a minimum, to apologize.